

in paying tribute to patients around the country. The Genesee County Medical Society, a dedicated group of doctors in my district, recently passed a resolution designating the third Tuesday of October "Patient Appreciation Day." I applaud their desire to reciprocate the appreciation patients have for doctors and I join them in calling on other doctors to take a moment to recognize their patients.

When patients go to visit their doctors, they are generally sick and vulnerable. It is comforting for all of us who have been patients to know that the trust and respect that patients have for doctors goes both ways. As medical technology evolves, it is particularly reassuring to know that doctors appreciate the human element of care as much as we do.

On this Patient Appreciation Day, I hope you will join me and the Genesee County Medical Society in paying respect to the deep doctor-patient bond.

HONORING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ARMENIA, VASKEN SARKISSIAN AND DZOVINAR SARKISSIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His Excellency Vasken Sarkissian, the Prime Minister of Armenia. Mr. Sarkissian visited the United States Capitol earlier this month on the occasion of the birth of his niece, Dzovinar Sarkissian, on October 11, 1999.

I want to congratulate the proud parents of Aram Sarkissian and his wife Arine, along with grandparents, Zavena and Gretta Sarkissian.

Prime Minister Sarkissian is the former Defense Minister of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Aram and Arine Sarkissian for the arrival of their child Dzovinar Sarkissian and I thank Prime Minister Vasken Sarkissian for making a visit to our nation's Capitol. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Sarkissian family many more years of good health and success.

KNOW YOUR CALLER ACT OF 1999

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit telephone marketing companies, when making solicitation calls, from using any method to block or circumvent a recipient's caller identification service. The Know Your Caller Act of 1999 will provide much needed consumer protection for telephone subscribers who also pay for caller identification services. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill.

At all times of the day, but especially after work, during dinner, inevitably the telephone rings and our activities are interrupted to answer the telephone to hear an unsolicited telemarketer trying to sell you some product. You may politely explain you are not interested and ask the person to please identify on whose

behalf they are soliciting so you can request to be placed on their do-not-call list and the next thing you know the person hangs up the telephone and you are unable to identify which company has invaded the sanctity of your home. To combat and filter out these "nuisance calls" and tactics people pay a monthly fee to subscribe to a caller identification service. It is a disgrace that some companies can block a subscriber's caller identification service.

I have received many letters from my constituents who have subscribed to a caller identification service and they are outraged that telephone solicitors can deliberately block their service. Let me quote one of my constituents "I have been receiving numerous telephone calls from unidentified numbers. I have caller identification service on my private telephone line, but the calling numbers are not displayed. I think it is intolerable and it constitutes a flagrant violation of my rights. I pay for a telephone line and caller identification service to avoid the hassles of telemarketing solicitations, but I do not feel I am getting my money's worth."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this legislation would provide much needed consumer protection from telemarketing solicitors who block caller identification devices. People with a caller identification service should be able to identify telephone solicitors and have the ability to telephone them back to request to be put on their do-not call list. This bill would require telephone solicitors to display their name and a working telephone number on caller identification devices and prohibit the use of any method to block or alter such a display.

THE BAYS CASE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring an issue to this House's attention. I would like to make public an article on the BAYS case. To the consternation of Argentine officials, the Buenos Aires Yoga School (BAYS) affair is assuming a rising profile on the sparsely populated plains of U.S.-Argentine relations. More than 50 Democratic and Republican House members have now sent letters to President Menem asking him to halt in the persecuting of the literary and social organization. The 300-strong group, which includes some illustrious intellectuals, has shrunk from a peak membership of 1,000 due to the unremitting harassment it has suffered at the hands of the authorities.

For six years, the case has been enmeshed in Argentina's stygian court system, which has been classified by several international business groups as being among the world's most corrupt. Six years ago, when the case first broke, the local press saw BAYS as an Argentine version of Jonestown, even though not a single reporter bothered to closely investigate any of the specious charges lodged against it. Argentina's journalists now see this as a pot-boiler performance which many have come to regret. After a first wave of tabloid journalism faded, a code of silence descended on the case until recently, when several young BAYS members, with no budget, came to Wash-

ington and proceeded to work Congress in search of the justice they were denied in their native country. President Clinton has now written two letters on the case, expressing his concern over the apparent malfunctioning of proper legal procedures. He has also asked that the U.S. embassy in Buenos Aires "encourage Argentine authorities to respond fully to congressional correspondence on this matter."

BEWITCHED AND BEWILDERED

The BAYS case was originally presided over by Judge Mariano Bergés from December 1993 until November 1995 when, after a short interregnum, it was taken over by Judge Julio Cesar Corvalán de la Colina. As a result of these excesses, Bergés was brought before the Argentine Congress' Impeachment Committee on charges of non-professional behavior involving 138 irregularities and several serious crimes regarding BAYS alone. Radical Party members on the committee supported Bergés, which startled many observers wary of the Party's corruption problems stemming from the Alfonsín-led Radical government of the 1980s. But, in spite of its delegation's stance, the entire Impeachment committee moved to indict Bergés for abuse of power and failure in his public duties. He insisted that BAYS had "cast a spell on him," and then withdrew from the case. Although no ultimate action was taken, the case eventually was handed over to Corvalán, who now presides.

DR. CORVALÁN, PSYCHIATRIST

Instead of applying responsible jurisprudence in the BAYS case, Judge Corvalán grossly compounded his predecessor's malfeasance. Engaging in flagrant misuse of his powers, Corvalán emulated the worst practices of the Stalinist era by condemning BAYS members on grounds of poor mental health, without considering due process. Corvalán, who was appointed to the bench under the Argentine military junta (and maintained his position due to Alfonsín's intervention), declared the two BAYS members "mentally incompetent," and awarded legal custody over them to their long-estranged mothers. His ruling was upheld by an Appellate Court, even though the psychological exams of the BAYS defendants were administered by a court-appointed forensic team, and showed them of sound mind. These mental health specialists also established that one defendant has been sexually abused by her family. If this wasn't Argentina—a country featuring daily scandals—it would be inconceivable that a judge, ignoring expert testimony and with no concrete evidence, would award custody of a 27-year old woman to the very person who she previously had charged with sexual depravity. After being armed with such powers, the mother promptly filed a bondage suit against BAYS in the name of her daughter. After a recent mission to Argentina by the Council on Hemisphere Affairs, the members expressed their concern in a letter to President Clinton: "The Delegation found many legal and judicial irregularities. . . ." Argentine human rights organizations have begun to denounce the anti-BAYS actions committed by judicial officials.

Nobel laureate, Adolfo Perez Esquivel found that Corvalán's ruling on BAYS "begs to be investigated," and the famed Mothers of Plaza de Mayo concluded that he had violated Article 16 of the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights. The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo maintained that Corvalán's actions "are similar to those committed against